

GRAY DAVIS  
GOVERNOR



# State of California

## Health and Human Services Agency

August 30, 2002

GRANTLAND JOHNSON  
SECRETARY

To the Consumers and Stakeholders Interested in California's  
Olmstead Planning Process:

### Agency Departments & Boards:

Aging

Alcohol and  
Drug Programs

Child Support  
Services

Community Services  
and Development

Developmental  
Services

Emergency Medical  
Services Authority

Employment  
Development  
Department

Health Services

Health and  
Human Services  
Data Center

Managed Risk  
Medical Insurance

Mental Health

Rehabilitation

Social Services

Statewide Health  
Planning and  
Development

Workforce  
Investment

Thank you for your interest in improving the opportunities for  
Californians with disabilities to live independently in our  
communities.

As a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision, states  
across the nation are engaged in evaluating the programs and  
services they provide to enable their citizens with disabilities to live  
in their respective communities rather than in institutions.

California has a long tradition of promoting and supporting the rights  
of individuals with disabilities. The independent living movement  
was born here, and this is the only state to provide an entitlement to  
services for persons with developmental disabilities. We are proud  
of our commitment and success in moving people into community  
placement. Over the past ten years, the number of persons civilly  
committed to our California state mental hospitals dropped from  
2,500 in 1992 to 800 in 2001; our utilization of nursing homes is  
among the lowest in the nation, while grants to recipients under the  
state's Supplement Security Income/State Supplemental Payment  
Program are among the highest; and the number of persons served  
by the In-Home Supportive Services has grown to 250,000, making  
it by far the largest program in the nation of its kind.

This Administration continues to evaluate ways to improve the array  
of community living services for persons with disabilities. The Aging  
with Dignity Initiative, a \$55 million program of Integrated Services  
for the Homeless, and a \$20 million augmentation to expand  
community placement options for persons with developmental  
disabilities are a few examples of the progress we have made.

I invite you to join us in identifying and recommending further  
improvements to our service systems that support community living.  
We ask that you share your personal experiences, knowledge and

Olmstead Forum Process  
Page 2

expertise, and those of your family members and friends who have disabilities. We want to draw upon your experiences and wisdom to inform our future efforts.

Thank you again for taking the time to participate today in an Olmstead Forum.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grantland Johnson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

GRANTLAND JOHNSON  
Secretary